

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OHIO
LABORERS' FRINGE BENEFIT
PROGRAMS,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**Civil Action 2:19-cv-1304
Judge George C. Smith
Magistrate Judge Kimberly A. Jolson**

D&R MASONRY, INC.,

Defendant.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why Certain Persons Should Not Be Held in Contempt of Court (the "Show Cause Motion") (Doc. 9). Plaintiffs filed an Application for Entry of Default Against Defendant, (Doc. 5), on May 14, 2019, and a Motion for Order Accelerating and Compelling Discovery (Doc. 7) on May 22, 2019. The Clerk entered default as to Defendant on May 15, 2019 (Doc. 6), and the Court granted Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Accelerating and Compelling Discovery in its May 23, 2019 Order (Doc. 8). Specifically, the Court ordered "that Defendant, through an authorized agent, appear for deposition on a date and time as determined by the Plaintiff and produce the documents requested in Plaintiff's Notice of Deposition and Request for Production of Documents." (*Id.* at 1).

Although the Order was served on Defendant by certified mail, Defendant failed to comply with the Court's Order by not appearing for deposition and not producing documents. (Doc. 9-1). Consequently, Plaintiffs filed the Show Cause Motion. In it, Plaintiffs requested that the Court enter an order "requiring the Defendant and its authorized officer, Ralph Robertson, to appear and show cause why they and each of them should not be held in contempt of the Court's previous

order, and punished by fine, imprisonment, or both and ordered to pay” the expenses associated with the Show Cause Motion. (Doc. 9 at 2).

The Undersigned issued a Show Cause Order directing Defendant and its registered agent, Ralph Robertson, “to appear and show cause why they should not be held in contempt of this Court’s May 23, 2019. (Doc. 10 at 2). In that Order, the Undersigned set a show cause hearing for June 27, 2019. The Order advised that, if Defendant and Mr. Robertson failed to appear and show cause, “the Court may order the arrest of Mr. Robertson.” (*Id.*). Copies of that Order were sent to Defendant and Mr. Robertson by regular and certified mail. (Doc. 11).

On June 27, 2019, the Undersigned held a show cause hearing on at 9:30 a.m. Despite having adequate notice of that hearing, Defendant and Mr. Robertson did not appear. Having failed to comply with the Court’s Orders (Docs. 8, 10), the Undersigned finds that civil contempt sanctions are appropriate.

“[I]ncarceration has long been established as an appropriate sanction for civil contempt.” *Singh v. Capital Univ. Law & Graduate Ctr.*, 238 F.3d 424 (6th Cir. 2000) (collecting cases). “As used in the civil context, . . . incarceration must be conditional[.]” (*Id.*). Accordingly, to ensure Defendant’s compliance with the Court’s Orders, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the Court **GRANT** Plaintiff’s Motion (Doc. 9) and **HOLD DEFENDANT and RALPH ROBERTSON in CONTEMPT**. Specifically, if Defendant does not comply with the Court’s May 23, 2019 Order (Doc. 8) within **TWENTY ONE DAYS** of the adoption of this Report and Recommendation, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the Court issue a warrant for the arrest of Ralph Robertson and imprison Mr. Robertson until such time as Defendant complies with the Court’s May 23, 2019 Order. The Court emphasizes that these sanctions are conditional and designed only to ensure Defendant’s compliance. Defendant, therefore, may purge itself of its contempt, and avoid the above punishment, by working with Plaintiff and its counsel to resolve this matter.

Additionally, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the Court hold Defendant liable, regardless of its future action, for Plaintiff's expenses and attorney's fees associated with its Motion for Order to Show Cause (Doc. 9), as compensation for Defendants' noncompliance.

The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to mail a copy of this Order, by regular and certified mail, to:

Ralph Robertson
c/o D&R Masonry, Inc.
P.O. Box 565,
Lucasville, OH 45648

Ralph Robertson
c/o D&R Masonry, Inc.
2165 Millers Run Fallen Timber Rd.,
Lucasville, OH 45648

The Clerk shall indicate on the docket the fact of that mailing.

PROCEDURE ON OBJECTIONS

If any party objects to this Report and Recommendation ("R&R"), that party may, within fourteen days of the date of this R&R, file and serve on all parties written objections to those specific proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made, together with supporting authority for the objection(s). A District Judge of this Court shall make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made. Upon proper objections, a District Judge of this Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made herein, may receive further evidence or may recommit this matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. 636(B)(1).

The parties are specifically advised that failure to object to this R&R will result in a waiver of the right to have the District Judge review the R&R *de novo*, and also operates as a waiver of

the right to appeal the decision of the District Court adopting the R&R. *See Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *United States v. Walters*, 638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: July 1, 2019

/s/ Kimberly A. Jolson
KIMBERLY A. JOLSON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE